

*for DD/S and his
staff only*

67-850

11 August 1967

The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Walt:

Thank you for making available to me Clark Clifford's Memorandum for the President on the Intelligence Information Handling Problem. I agree completely with the conclusion that intelligence information handling is one of our most serious problems and welcome the interest that the President's Board has taken in it.

For reasons which I have expressed in a letter to Clark Clifford, I do not agree completely with the wording of the proposed Presidential Directive or with one of the Supplementary Recommendations. I am enclosing a copy of this letter which explains my reservations in some detail.

Primarily my concern stems from language of the proposed directive which appears to require me to move faster in connection with the "design and management" of a unified information system within the intelligence community than I believe to be practical, given the existing legal and organizational arrangements on which the community is based. I am also opposed to the establishment of another Deputy to the Director of Central Intelligence and seriously question the desirability of a review body to perform a monitor function, although I will of course continue to consult the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and keep them advised of developments.

There is no question in my mind, however, that intensification of effort on the information handling problem is required and I am in general agreement with most of the recommendations of the President's Board. Attached is a proposed redraft of a Presidential Directive which I believe generally consistent with the Board's wishes but which avoids some of the difficulties which I believe would result from issuance of the draft in its original form.

Additional resources will be required if we are to proceed in accordance with this Directive. These will be identified at the time the phased plan and estimates are submitted prior to the 1969 budget review in November.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

2 Attachments

D/DCI/NIPE (11/8/67)

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